

WO 99/00924

PCT/US99/11428

SUBSTITUTE PAGE

52

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

comprises a substantially non-elastic material, the waist elastomeric material is prestrained and is joined to the substantially non-elastic material, and the waist elastomeric material and the substantially non-elastic material are subjected to mechanical stretching to form the extensible waistband being extensible beyond a length of the substantially non-elastic material.

1. A disposable garment having a front region, a back region, a crotch region between the front region and the back region, the disposable garment comprising:

a chassis having a topsheet, a backsheet joined with the topsheet, and an absorbent core interposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, the chassis having a central panel having a waist edge and side edges, an ear panel having a waist edge, and a waistband panel in the front region and the back region, wherein the ear panel extends laterally outwardly from each side edge of the central panel, and the waistband panel extends longitudinally outwardly from the waist edge of the central panel and the waist edge of the ear panel,

a waist elastomeric material joined to and extending continuously along the waistband panels in the front region and the back region so as to form a continuous extensible waistband in the front region and the back region,

a side elastomeric material joined to the ear panel so as to form extensible ears, wherein the side elastomeric material and the waist elastomeric material are separate elements and are disposed so as not to overlap to each other, and

seams joining each ear panel to a corresponding portion in the opposite region so as to form two leg openings and a waist opening such that the extensible waistbands form a continuous extensible waist feature.

2. The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the waistband panel has an original length before the waist elastomeric material is joined thereto, wherein the continuous extensible waistband is, under stretching, extensible such that the continuous extensible waistband extends beyond the original length of the waistband panel.

3. The disposable garment of Claim 2 wherein at least a part of the waist elastomeric material is prestrained before joined to the waistband panel.

4. The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the extensible ear is formed from a "zero strain" stretch laminate.

5. The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the waist elastomeric materials comprise two separate elements, one of which is joined to the waistband panel in the front region, the other of which is joined to the waistband panel in the back region, wherein the two elements are connected to each other at the seams.

the waist elastomeric material and the substantially non-elastic material are subjected to mechanical stretching before the waist elastomeric material returns to the substantially untensioned condition.

WO 99/50974

PCT/US99/11428

SUBSTITUTE PAGE

the composite side elastomeric network exhibits a behavior of extensibility like a single elastomeric material.

53

substantially continuously between the waist opening and the leg opening

6. The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the waist elastomeric material and the side elastomeric material are disposed ~~so as to~~ form a composite ~~side~~ elastomeric network extending between the waist opening and the leg openings.

7. The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the backsheet comprises an inner barrier film and a nonwoven outer cover, and wherein the nonwoven outer cover is superposed outside the inner barrier film.

8. The disposable garment of Claim 7 wherein the extensible waistband comprises an extended portion of the outer cover and the waist elastomeric material.

9. The disposable garment of Claim 7 wherein the extensible ear comprises an extended portion of the outer cover and the side elastomeric material.

10. The disposable garment of Claim 1 wherein the waist elastomeric material is superposed inside an innermost surface of the garment.

11. A disposable garment having a front region, a back region and a crotch region between the front region and the back region, the disposable garment comprising: a chassis, a waist elastomeric material, a side elastomeric material, and seams joining parts of the disposable garment in the front region to parts of the disposable garment in the back region so as to form a waist opening and leg openings, wherein

the garment has a continuous belt zone which is formed by at least the waist elastomeric material and the side elastomeric material,

the continuous belt zone is extensible in an extension range up to an extension of at least about 125 %, the continuous belt zone has a modulus of extensibility in the extension range,

the modulus of extensibility at the extension of 125 % is not greater than about 150 g/%extension, and

the force to obtain the extension of 125 % is not greater than 5,000 g.

12. The disposable garment of Claim 11 wherein the modulus of extensibility in the extension range up to the extension of about 125 % is not greater than about 150 g/%extension.

13. The disposable garment of Claim 11 wherein the modulus of extensibility at the extension of 135 % is not greater than about 200 g/%extension.
14. The disposable garment of Claim 11 wherein the modulus of extensibility at the extension of 125 % is not greater than about 120 g/%extension.
15. The disposable garment of Claim 15 wherein the modulus of extensibility in the extension range up to the extension of about 125 % is not greater than about 120 g/%extension.
16. The disposable garment of Claim 11 wherein the force to obtain the extension of 125 % is not greater than about 4,500 g.
17. The disposable garment of Claim 11 wherein the continuous belt zone has an initial circumference of between about 220 mm and about 500 mm.
18. The disposable garment of Claim 11 wherein the continuous belt zone is extensible up to a circumference of at least 650 mm.
19. The disposable garment of Claim 11 wherein the chassis has a central panel having a waist edge, and a waistband panel extending longitudinally outwardly from each waist edge of the central panel in the front region and the back region, wherein the waistband panel has an original length before the waist elastomeric material is joined thereto, and is joined the waist elastomeric material to form an extensible waistband, wherein the extensible waistband is rendered extensible such that the extensible waistband extends beyond the original length of the waistband panel.
20. The disposable garment of Claim 11 wherein the chassis has a central panel having side edges, and an ear panel extending laterally outwardly from each side edge of the central panel in the front region and the back region, wherein the ear panel is joined the side elastomeric material to form an extensible ear, wherein the extensible ear is formed from a "zero strain" stretch laminate.
21. A disposable garment of the type of worn about the torso of a wearer, the garment having a front region, a back region, a crotch region between the front region and the back region, a waist opening, and leg openings, wherein

when the garment is applied to a standard mannequin, the skin contact pressure of the side elastomeric material and the waist elastomeric material pressing on the skin of the standard mannequin is not greater than about 0.75 psi.

22. The disposable garment of Claim 21 wherein the skin contact pressure of the side elastomeric material and the waist elastomeric material pressing on the skin of the standard mannequin is not greater than about 0.65 psi.
23. The disposable garment of Claim 22 wherein the skin contact pressure of the side elastomeric material and the waist elastomeric material pressing on the skin of the standard mannequin is not greater than about 0.55 psi.
24. The disposable garment of Claim 21 wherein the skin contact pressure of the side elastomeric material and the waist elastomeric material pressing on the skin of the standard mannequin is not less than about 0.1 psi.
25. The disposable garment of Claim 24 wherein the skin contact pressure of the side elastomeric material and the waist elastomeric material pressing on the skin of the standard mannequin is not less than about 0.2 psi.
26. The disposable garment of Claim 21 wherein the difference between the highest skin contact pressure and the lowest skin contact pressure of the side elastomeric material and the waist elastomeric material pressing on the skin of the standard mannequin is not greater than about 0.65 psi.
27. The disposable garment of Claim 26 wherein the difference between the highest skin contact pressure and the lowest skin contact pressure of the side elastomeric material and the waist elastomeric material pressing on the skin of the standard mannequin is not greater than about 0.45 psi.
28. The disposable garment of Claim 21 wherein the side elastomeric material is in the form of a continuous plane layer.

29. The disposable garment of Claim 21 wherein the waist elastomeric material is in the form of a continuous plane layer.

Variable	Mean	SD	Min	Max	Median	Mode	Skewness	Kurtosis	Shapiro-Wilk	Normality
Age	35.5	10.5	25	55	35	35	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Gender	1.5	0.5	1	2	1.5	1.5	0.00	0.00	0.95	Normal
Marital Status	2.5	1.0	1	4	2.5	2.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Education	12.5	2.0	10	16	12.5	12.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Income	3.5	1.5	2	6	3.5	3.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Occupation	1.5	0.5	1	2	1.5	1.5	0.00	0.00	0.95	Normal
Religion	1.5	0.5	1	2	1.5	1.5	0.00	0.00	0.95	Normal
Health Status	2.5	1.0	1	4	2.5	2.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Stress Level	3.5	1.5	2	6	3.5	3.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Life Satisfaction	4.5	1.0	3	6	4.5	4.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Resilience	3.5	1.5	2	6	3.5	3.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Optimism	4.5	1.0	3	6	4.5	4.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Emotional Stability	3.5	1.5	2	6	3.5	3.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Self-Esteem	4.5	1.0	3	6	4.5	4.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Life Satisfaction	4.5	1.0	3	6	4.5	4.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Resilience	3.5	1.5	2	6	3.5	3.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Optimism	4.5	1.0	3	6	4.5	4.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Emotional Stability	3.5	1.5	2	6	3.5	3.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal
Self-Esteem	4.5	1.0	3	6	4.5	4.5	0.05	0.05	0.95	Normal